

Claims

1. Use of an inhibitor of a receptor tyrosine kinase ligand for the manufacture of a medicament for the prevention or treatment of an at least partially therapy-resistant hyperproliferative disorder.
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2. The use of claim 1 wherein the disorder is cancer.
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3. The use of claims 1 or 2 wherein the disorder is an at least partially irradiation and/or medicament-resistant cancer.
4. The use of any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the disorder is at least partially resistant against apoptosis-inducing therapy.
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5. The use of any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the disorder is at least partially resistant against administration of cytostatic and/or cytotoxic medicaments, particularly apoptosis-inducing medicaments.
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6. The use of any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein the inhibitor of a receptor tyrosine kinase ligand is co-applied with a further therapeutic procedure and/or medicament.
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7. The use of claim 6 wherein the medicament is co-applied with an irradiation therapy.
8. The use of claims 6 or 7 wherein the medicament is co-applied with a further anti-cancer medicament, particularly with a chemotherapeutic agent or with an anti-tumour antibody.
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9. The use of claim 8 wherein the further anti-cancer
medicament is selected from doxorubicin, a taxane, cis/trans-
platin or derivatives thereof, 5-fluorouracil, mitomycin D,
5 paclitaxel, etoposide, cyclophosphamide, docetaxel or other
apoptosis-inducing drugs or proteins, in particular antibodies .
10. Use of an inhibitor of a receptor tyrosine kinase ligand for the
manufacture of a medicament for increasing the efficacy of
10 therapies against hyperproliferative disorders.
11. Use of an inhibitor of a receptor tyrosine kinase for the
manufacture of a medicament for increasing the sensitivity of
hyperproliferative disorders against irradiation and/or
15 medicament treatment.
12. Use of an inhibitor of a receptor tyrosine kinase ligand for the
manufacture of a medicament for the prevention or treatment
of a hyperproliferative disorder which is caused by or
20 associated with stress-induced activation of a receptor
tyrosine kinase.
13. The use of claim 12, wherein the stress is an oxidative and/or
osmotic stress.
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14. The use of claims 12 or 13, wherein the stress is a p38-
mediated stress.
15. The use of claims 12 to 14, wherein the disorder is cancer.
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16. The use of any one of claims 1 to 15 wherein the receptor
tyrosine kinase is selected from EGFR and other members of
the EGFR family.

17. The use of any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the receptor is EGFR.
- 5 18. The method of any one of claims 1 to 17 wherein the receptor tyrosine kinase ligand is a ligand binding to the extracellular domain of said receptor tyrosine kinase.
- 10 19. The use of any one of claim 1 to 18 wherein the receptor tyrosine kinase ligand is selected from HB-EGF, EGF, amphiregulin, betacellulin, epiregulin, TGF- α , neuregulin or heregulin.
- 15 20. The use of claim 19 wherein the receptor tyrosine kinase ligand is HB-EGF.
- 20 21. The use of any one of claims 1 to 20 wherein the inhibitor is an inhibitor of a metalloprotease capable of cleaving the receptor tyrosine kinase ligand or an inhibitor of regulatory steps upstream of the metalloprotease.
22. The use of any one of claims 1 to 12 wherein the inhibitor is a direct inhibitor of the receptor tyrosine kinase ligand.
- 25 23. The use of any one of claims 1 to 22 wherein the inhibitor acts on the nucleic acid level.
24. The use of claim 23 wherein the inhibitor is a specific transcription inhibitor, particularly selected from anti-sense molecules, ribozymes or RNAi molecules.
- 30 25. The use of claim 24 wherein the inhibitor is a gene inactivator.

26. The use of any one of claims 1 to 22 wherein the inhibitor acts on the protein level.
- 5 27. The use of claim 26 wherein the inhibitor is a specific protein inhibitor, particularly selected from antibodies or antibody fragments and/or from proteinaceous or low-molecular weight inhibitors.
- 10 28. A pharmaceutical composition or kit comprising as active ingredients
- (a) an inhibitor of a receptor tyrosine kinase ligand which is an inhibitor of a metalloprotease capable of cleaving the receptor tyrosine kinase ligand or an inhibitor of regulatory steps upstream of the metalloprotease, and
- 15 (b) a further medicament for the treatment of hyperproliferative disorders.
- 20 29. The composition or kit of claim 28 which additionally comprises pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, diluents and/or adjuvants.
- 25 30. A method of preventing or treating an at least partially therapy-resistant hyperproliferative disorder comprising administering an inhibitor of a receptor tyrosine kinase ligand to a subject in need thereof.